

SPORTS

OVAC Basketball Classic termed successful event

By RICH GIBSON

Times-Leader Sports Writer

Approximately 1,000 fans attended the seventh annual Ohio Valley Athletic Conference All-Star Basketball games last weekend at Wheeling College.

The event will raise somewhere in the vicinity of \$3,500 for charity and according to game director Gene Ammirante, will return in 1985.

"We realize we're never going to draw 2,000 fans with a June

SPOTLIGHT ON SPORTS

date, but we don't look at it as a money-making venture," Ammirante said.

"It's more or less a showcase for the kids who have worked hard and are deserving of an all-star game."

The Classic was held in the non air-conditioned facilities at Wheeling College, but as Ammirante points out, the Wheeling Civic Center just isn't feasible.

"At the Civic Center, we're talking a charge of \$650 just to put the floor down, which doesn't include rental fees exceeding \$1,000," he said.

"We've been offered the facility (Bartell Fieldhouse) free of charge at West Liberty but we have to question whether the fans would be willing to travel that far."

The girls' session drew less than 400 while upwards of 650 turned out for the boys' tilts.

Of the four games, three came down to the wire and the fourth wasn't decided until late in the second half. "I felt the quality of play was outstanding," Ammirante observed.

Until the West Virginia Secondary Schools Activities Commission rescinds its rule which does not allow a Mountain State prepster to participate in a spring all-star contest (without losing eligibility for spring sports), look forward to the eighth OVAC Basketball Classic next June...

It's an all-star weekend for OVAC

Many of the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference's top athletes will be showcased this weekend on two fronts.

On Saturday, it's the 7th Annual OVAC Basketball Classic with a four-game format at the Wheeling College Fieldhouse.

A matinee twin bill featuring the valley's top girls' hoopsters unfolds at 1 p.m. with the Ohio and West Virginia AA-A squads squaring off.

Immediately following the small schools' tilt, it's the AAAA-AAA contest. The doubleheader featured a split in 1983 as the Lady Buckeyes won the AA-A affair, 82-29, while West Virginia, behind prep All-American Amy Gamble, captured the big school battle, 50-45.

The above format will be followed in boys' action beginning at 6 o'clock with small school squads vying preceding the big school confrontation at 8.

Ohio will be bidding for another sweep in boys' competition. The Bucks were 83-72 victors in the small school skirmish a year ago while Martins Ferry's Chuck Allen drilled a sudden death two-pointer as the Ohioans prevailed, 80-78, in the AAAA-AAA tussle.

Fans are reminded that the afternoon-evening twin bills are split sessions with tickets priced at \$3.00 per session.

On Sunday, the Brookside diamond plays host to the third Ohio-West Virginia All-Star Baseball-Softball Games.

Both contests will be nine innings in duration with the softball game starting at 1 p.m. Baseball action begins with the first pitch at 4.

Admission at the gate is \$2 for adults and \$1 for students. One ticket is good for both games.

SPORTS

St. C.'s Hess prevails in coaching finale Ohio girls score sweep in C

By RICH GIBSON

There was only one way for St. Clairsville's Joanne Hess to go out...as a winner!

The dean of Ohio Valley girls' basketball coaches is calling it a career after 17 illustrious seasons.



RECIPIENTS of scholarships provided by the Ohio Valley Basketball Coaches Association and the OVAC were Bob Mroczkowski of Bridgeport and Ann Osborne of St. Clairsville. They received the scholarship awards from Gene Ammirante, head basketball coach at Bellaire High and director of the OVAC Cage Classic held at Wheeling College Saturday. Mroczkowski will attend Wheeling College while Osborne is headed...

And in Saturday afternoon's OVAC Basketball Classic, Ohio's 60-43 victory over West Virginia made it 280 career wins for the Red Devils' mentor.

In the small-school contest, Ohio staged a frantic fourth quarter rally to pull out a 44-43 decision over the Lady Mountaineers.

HESS WAS ecstatic after guiding the Buckeyes to victory. "It was a terrific experience to be able to work with such a fine group of young ladies," she said following the game.

"This group was rare. They were totally unselfish and extremely hard-working. They played very well together and I feel our quickness made a difference."

The Lady Bucks broke open a tight game midway through the third quarter and won it going away.

Co-directing the Ohioans was River High's Tom Tisher, who watched former Pilot star Shirley Merckle dazzle the Mounties in the first half.

Merckle was all over the court, firing in 13 of her game-high 20 points before intermission. Merckle also dished off several fine assists as the Bucks forged into a 29-21 halftime advantage.

West Virginia self-destructed after the break, committing 14 turnovers and connecting on only seven-of-38 field goal attempts. Ohio had opened a 45-30

wheeled-and-dealed for 10 second half counters and the Bucks' also received a superior effort from Martins Ferry's Jill Myers, who crashed the boards and triggered several Ohio' fast breaks. Steubenville's Anna Worrels contributed 11 markers.

Ohio was forced to play with only two guards with St. Clairsville ace Ann Osborne sidelined due to injury.

Brooke's rangy Kim Brown tossed in 12 points and John Marshall's Leslie Ann Simons scored 10. Scoring:

OHIO (60) — Miller 0, 0-0; Schrader 0, 2-4; Means 1, 0-0; Wilson 1, 3-7; Myers 3, 0-1; Worrels 4, 3-6; Dawson 4, 6-6; Merckle 8, 3-4. Totals 21, 17-28.

WEST VIRGINIA (43) — Skinner 0, 0-0; McCombs 1, 0-0; Kloss 1, 0-1; Powell 1, 0-0; Sams 1, 0-0; Tennant 2, 1-6; Shapaka 4, 0-0; Simons 3, 4-11; Brown 3, 6-10. Totals 16, 11-26.

Three point goal — Shirley Merckle.

WEST VIRGINIA appeared well en route to victory in the AA-A tilt until the Buckeyes came from nowhere down the stretch.

The Mounties enjoyed leads of 8-5, 18-12, and 36-27 at the quarter poles and was still up by 41-31 in the waning moments when Ohio stunned their rivals by reeling off 13 unanswered points to take a 44-41 upperhand in the final ticks.

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ensive number on three Mountaineer all-stater T. Welch of Tyler County.

Schumacher held the buck than 20 point per game score only seven markers.

Meanwhile, Buck backcourters Renee Bednar (Buckeye West) and Kellie Horn (Union Local) proved a dynamic duo, combining nine points in Ohio's last post game spree.

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Girls score sweep in Classic

Ohio prevails in coaching finale

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added nine and Schumacher contributed seven. Scoring:

OHIO (44) — Lucas 0, 0-0; Stewart 0, 0-0; Manning 0, 1-2; Forshey 0, 3-5; Keyser 2, 0-0; Adams 1, 4-6; Schumacher 3, 1-1; Van Horn 2, 5-8; Bednaraki 5, 3-4. Totals 13, 18-28.

WEST VIRGINIA (43) — McElwain 0, 0-0; Lash 0, 0-0; Smith 1, 0-0; Guzzetta 1, 0-0; Peterson 2, 0-0; Allen 2, 2-2; Seckman 2, 2-2; Welch 2, 3-4; Eastham 4, 0-1; Andochick 2, 4-9. Totals 16, 11-18.

Bednaraki tossed in 13 points to lead the Bucks. Van Horn



Ohio Valley Basketball coach Tom Tisher of Bridgeport is calling it a career after 17 illustrious years of coaching. Tisher is the director of the scholarship awards at the college Saturday. Osborne is headed for

Mroczkowski, Holmes heroics pace Ohioans

By RICK DeLUCA
Times Leader Sports Writer

In nearly the same fashion, the Ohio big and small school all-stars continued their domination of the annual OVAC Ohio-West Virginia Basketball Classic by scoring thrilling wins in the seventh annual affair at the Wheeling College Fieldhouse, Saturday night.

A good-sized crowd looked on as the Ohio Class A-AA stars edged the West Virginians, 80-76, in the prelim on the late heroics of the Bridgeport tandem of Bob Mroczkowski and Jim Mayfield and the AAA-AAAA Buckeye unit clinched a tough 79-77 overtime win on a steal and two free throw conversions in the final three seconds by Martin Ferry standout, Ken "Junior" Holmes.

The win was the sixth straight without a loss under the AAA-AAAA format for the Ohioans, while the Buckeyes boosted their small school record to 5-1, losing in 1979.

SKYVUE HEAD COACH Mark Huffman saw his Ohio small school Buckeye squad open a 28-19 lead in the first



BOB MROCZKOWSKI

period and hold a 46-37 command at the half, only to have the upstart Mountaineers rally with a 21-13 third period outburst that pulled the hosts to within 59-58 entering the final segment.

In the fourth canto, Mroczkowski put the winners on the board first with a jumper from the corner, but the Mountaineers shocked the Ohioans with a free throw conversion by Tyler's John McGrew, and four straight points by Weirton Madonna's Shawn Vestal to

Darrin Carpenter goaled for the Buckeyes, West Virginia reeled off eight straight points, with Schodzinski and Gilbert splitting the chores, to go ahead by 74-72.

Shenandoah's Ron Warner sank a charity toss, Mayfield hit on a 15-footer, Vestal countered for the Mountaineers, before Mroczkowski sealed the win with a three-point play with just 10 seconds remaining.

The Ohioans capitalized on five three-point goals, two each by Mayfield and Wellsville's Mark Sheridan and one by Shadyaside's Trent Stupak, as they put four players in double figures and all ten players scored.

Aside from Mroczkowski's team-high 17 markers on eight buckets and a free throw, Wellsville's high-jumping Greg Pullie added 14 counters and Mayfield and Sheridan tacked on 14 tallies each.

Gilbert used his aggressive play to garner 17 points to team with Schodzinski for team scoring honors. Vestal closed with 16 markers and Sistersville's Chris Beaver finished with 11.

Ohio canned 32 of 64 shots from the floor, while the West Virginians sank 46 percent of their field attempts, netting 29 of 63.

The winners were outbounded by 32-29 as Mroczkowski hauled down nine to lead the Ohio squad and McGrew grabbed nine to pace the losers. Scoring:

OHIO (80) — Sheridan 4, 2-2; Mayfield 4, 2-2; Carpenter 2, 0-0; Warner 0, 3-8; Pullie 6, 2-2; Stupak 1, 0-0; Bettinger 2, 0-0; Mroczkowski 8, 1-1; Shugert 1, 0-1; Wilson 4, 1-5. Totals, 32, 11-19. Three-point goals: Sheridan (2), Mayfield (2), Stupak (1). **WEST VIRGINIA (76)** — Schodzinski 5, 7-8; Cosper 0, 0-0; McGrew 2, 3-7; Strobe 0, 0-0; Gilbert 7, 3-5; Beaver 5, 1-3; Evans 4, 0-0; Vestal 6, 4-5. Totals, 29, 18-27. Three-point goals: none.

HOLMES DOMINATED action in the first and third frames of the nightcap, but proved to be the deciding factor in overtime. After Wintersville's Rob Lucas sank two free throws with just 22 seconds remaining to put the Ohioans ahead by 77-75, West Virginian seemed to be in line for a game-tying score when a missed Mountaineer shot was knocked out-of-bounds by two Ohio rebounders enabling the hosts to put the ball in play under their own bucket with four seconds remaining.

The inbounds pass was picked off by the alert Holmes, who was quickly fouled to set up the

point goal by Wheeling Central's Mike Christman at the buzzer, to knot the score at the end of regulation, 70-70.

In overtime, Wintersville's Darin Blackwell swished a jumper from the corner, before Weirton's Eric Fullum scored back-to-back goals pushing the hosts in front by 74-72. Frontier's Harry Danford sank a break-away layup and Blackwell canned a free throw with 54 seconds remaining.



KEN HOLMES

Park's all-stater Bob Kupchak sank a free toss, but the free throws by Lucas and Holmes iced the win, as Park's Carl Allison's score at the buzzer was not enough.

Holmes finished with a team-high 21 points, while Helms ended with 14. Lucas and Steubenville Central's Rocky Bragg added nine each.

Kupchak closed his outstanding career with a 22-point game-high effort. Christman closed with 18, including two three-point buckets and Fullum added 12.

The winners sank 49 percent of their shots, meshing 33 of 67 tries, while the Mountaineers connected on 31 of 72 for 43 percent.

Ohio held a 39-32 edge in rebounding with Martins Ferry's Doug Kepreos leading the way with six rebounds and Helms, Lucas, Bragg and Meadowbrook's Trent Roederer grabbing five each. Allison paced the Mountaineers with eight. Scoring:

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In the fourth canto, Mroczkowski put the winners on the board first with a jumper from the corner, but the Mountaineers shocked the Ohioans with a free throw conversion by Tyler's John McGrew, and four straight points by Weirton Madonna's Shawn Vestal to move the hosts ahead by 63-61 with 6:23 on the clock.

Mroczkowski meshed another jumper, Madonna's Ed Schodzinski countered with a pair at the line and the Bulldog ace added a third goal to knot the score at 65-all. Mayfield canned a three-point goal and Mroczkowski sank a layup for a 70-65 Ohio lead. But after Paden City's Mike Gilbert canned a free throw and Barnesville's

Shadyside's Trent Stupak, as they put four players in double figures and all ten players scored.

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The inbounds pass was picked off by the alert Holmes, who was quickly fouled to set up the Ohioans game-winning free throw conversions.

Ohio held a slim 19-17 lead in the first period, but the Buckeyes, coached by Winterville's Mel Coleman, erupted to go ahead by 40-28 at the intermission. The West Virginians came out smoking in the third canto outscoring the Bucks by 25-14 to pull within 54-51 and used an exciting comeback, capped by a three-



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